



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

November 16, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe  
Interim Director of Public Works

**AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE (TITLE 16 – HIGHWAYS)  
ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CAMPING, LODGING, OR SLEEPING  
IN A VEHICLE PARKED ON A HIGHWAY**

We are currently considering recommending to your Board to amend the Los Angeles County Code (Title 16 - Highways) to prohibit camping, lodging, or sleeping in a vehicle parked on a highway.

This amendment is intended to address complaints from residents in the unincorporated County areas regarding vehicles being parked on public roadways, which are being utilized for dwelling purposes. This problem is exacerbated by a limited number of these campers dumping their trash and lavatories within the road right of way. The nearby property owners have expressed their concern to us that this form of camping degrades the quality of the neighborhood, poses a nuisance, and affects public health and safety.

Pursuant to Section 15.64.200 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Sheriff's Department shall remove a vehicle that has been parked or left standing upon a highway for 72 or more consecutive hours. However, it has been reported to us by concerned residents that certain inhabited vehicles, once marked for parking enforcement purposes, are being moved or driven around the block by their occupants for the purpose of circumventing the parking requirement. The vehicle and its occupant are then free to return to its original position. Consequently, Section 15.64.200 has not been effective in dealing with the problem of camping on a highway. The County Code (Title 16 – Highways) does not currently offer a provision by which your Board can prohibit the habitation of parked vehicles upon County highways.

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Assuming your concurrence, we anticipate submitting an Ordinance for your Board's consideration that would add Chapter 16.86 to the County Code to prohibit the camping, lodging, or sleeping in a vehicle parked on a highway.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Bill Winter of our Traffic and Lighting Division at (626) 300-4700.

EKT:rj

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel (Mark Yanai)  
Executive Office  
Sheriff's Department